GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2868
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2016
Indians seeking Asylum in US
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sudden surge in Indians seeking asylum in the US;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether in 2015, 141 people had been granted asylum as compared to 60 people in 2013 and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has inquired into the grounds on which the US Government has granted asylum to Indians;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is also increase in the number of women who have sought asylum in the US;

(g) if so, the details thereof and to what extent trafficking is responsible for increase in the number of women seeking asylum; and

(h) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to inquire into the causes of Indians seeking asylum in foreign countries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) According to the "Annual Flow Report (2014) For Refugees and Asylees" that is published by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the United States provides asylum/refuge to persons through two programmes: 1) a refugee program for persons outside the U.S. and their immediate relatives, and, 2) an asylum program for persons in the U.S. and their immediate relatives.

This Report classifies asylees into two categories viz. "Affirmative Asylees" and "Defensive Asylees" and provides numbers under these two categories.

As per data from the latest edition of the Annual Flow Report 2014 (issued in April 2016), following numbers of Indians were given Asylee status in the US in 2012, 2013 and 2014 (numbers for 2015 are not available):

Year Affirmative Asylum Defensive Asylum Following-to-join Asylees
Affirmative Asylum granted
(Indians) Defensive Asylum granted
(Indians) "Following-to-join Asylees" (family members of a person already given asylum in the U.S.)
(Indians)
2012 93 253 79
2013 358 322 362
2014 118 372 226

Source: [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Refugees%20%26%20Asylees%20Flow%20Report%202014_508.pdf]

(d) & (e) The US Government does not share any information with our Mission or our Consulates on the number of Indians who have sought or have been granted asylum or the grounds on which the US Government has granted them asylum.

(f) to (h) Numbers for asylum granted to Indian women in the US are not available, nor are the reasons for grant of asylum to them.